



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

503.231.3853

stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

November 20, 2022

The Announcement to Mary



Next Sunday

Visitation of the Virgin to Elizabeth

Eph 1:1-14 (The Father's Plan of Salvation)

Lk 1:39-45 (Mary Visits Elizabeth)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for November 6th-12th

Online.....\$1,604.75

Collection.....\$843.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,447.75

YTD Total.....\$98,976.37

YTD Goal.....\$103,860.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$4,883.63**

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, November 20th, 11:00am

+Marie and Wadih Germanos

Monday, November 21st

+Halim and Helen Mouawad

Tuesday, November 22nd

+Assad Zaidan

Wednesday, November 23rd

+Art Santos

Thursday, November 24th

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Friday, November 25th

Available

Saturday, November 26th

Available

Sunday, November 27th

+Evette Ghosson

Adoration/Exposition every Sunday at 10:00 am before the morning Liturgy.

Confession every Sunday 10:35-10:50am before the morning Liturgy.

Also join us to pray the Rosary on Sundays at 10:30 am before the Liturgy begins.

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, November 20th

Redmond Family

Sunday, November 27th

Available

Parish Council

Bruce Ashford
Charlie Ashou
Gus Bekahi
Ben El Hajj
Agopos Ghossein
Adib Karam
+Claude Karam
Lydia Massaad
+Doug Raab
+Thaddeus Rask
Nadia Redmond
Peter Rizk
Mitch Siekmann

+Finance
Committee



Message From Abouna: Abouna has a new Oregon phone number! **503-961-4881**

Please change his number in your contacts to this new number as the old phone number will not be in operation much longer.

St. Sharbel Men's Prayer Group

Meeting **Saturday, November 19, 2022**
7 PM @ St. Sharbel

Questions?? Call Steve Moffitt 503-704-2914 or Ben Elhadj at 503-545-7873

**ANGRY? NEED A WEAPON?
PRAY THE ROSARY!**

**JOIN US AS WE PRAY THE
ROSARY**
EVERY 2ND MONDAY OF
THE MONTH AT 8PM ET

TO BUILD A CULTURE OF LIFE &
TO OVERCOME EVIL IN THE WORLD
LED BY BISHOP ELIAS ZAIDAN,
BISHOP GREGORY MANSOUR
OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVE

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER
October 10 December 12
November 14

ZOOM LINK tinyurl.com/ofslmonthlyrosary

CYO HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL IS BACK!

The league is open to all high school students who don't play on their high school team. Put a team together with your friends and play some great basketball this winter.

Registration is open now!
www.cyocamphoward.org
Questions? Contact Erin at erinc@cyocamphoward.org

Parish Programs



Maronite Young Adults (MYA)



MYA is a local chapter of a national Maronite organization for single and married men and women ages 19+

•**Next Event:** *Sunday, November 20th* — after Mass at St. Sharbel
We will look and discuss the 6th rule from St. Ignatius of Loyola on discernment of Spirits.

For more info on the MYA, contact Claude@trazzafoods.com



St. Sharbel's MYO or "The Cedars of Saint Sharbel" will start gathering again on October 23 in the upstairs meeting room immediately after mass. The group is for boys and girls ages 13-18.

Upcoming Meeting Dates Are: 12/4, 1/15

10 Reasons to Sign up Your Son or Daughter for the Cedars of Saint Sharbel Youth Group this year:

1. Engaging discussions on topics which are important to young people today
2. Opportunities for fun and creativity among friends
3. Opportunities to make new friends in a safe environment
4. Fosters in our young people self-esteem, communication skills, listening skills and good mental health
5. Gives young people a chance to not only receive, but to give of their time, attention, and talent
6. Helps young people find answers to their questions by using the teachings of our faith
7. Teaches young people how to explain what we believe as Catholics to someone who asks them.
8. Strengthens a sense of community in our youth, the future of the Church!
9. It's convenient: Meetings are held at our church, once or twice a month, after mass on Sunday. No additional driving required!
10. Parents get to take turns volunteering and being present at meetings, therefore, taking part in some of the fun we'll be having.

Please contact Gennifer Karam at jmjkaram3@gmail.com to register

Religious Education

To ALL Families with children between Ages 6-11

For Information about family catechesis and sacrament preparation Contact Nadia Redmond, Coordinator of Religious Education, n.redmond@comcast.net

Please continue to pray for our parish and ministries



Invitation to all Sisters in Christ,

A year ago, we formed a group of 7 sisters in Christ to join the Seven Sisters Apostolate, <https://sevensistersapostolate.org/>. Catholic parishes across the United States have joined this beautiful apostolate to pray for our priests.

The Seven Sisters Apostolate is a call to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest or bishop—a "holy wasting" (cf. Mt. 26:10) or lavishing of prayer for his deeper conformity to Christ.

St. Sharbel's 7 sisters are committed to pray for one Holy Hour per week for Abouna Christopher.

If the Holy Spirit is calling you to make this commitment, please contact Nadia Redmond at 503-671-0440 or email: n.redmond@comcast.net

Reflection

This Second Sunday of the Season of Announcements commemorates the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary by the angel Gabriel, in which he tells her that she will be the Mother of God. This feast is so important in the Syriac tradition that we celebrate it twice a year – on this Sunday and on March 25 – nine months before the celebration of Christ's birth. Our Syriac tradition is known for defending her title as 'Mother of God' against the heretics of the early century who denied her of it. Particularly, the Bishop of Constantinople Nestorius denied Mary bore God in her womb – but the Gospel today is clear, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35). God became man in His goodness that we might share in His divine nature – to deny that is to deny the goodness and generosity of God! So today we celebrate God the Son's humility, for He chose to become a child born of the Virgin Mary as Isaiah foretold (Is. 7:14). When Mary received the word of the angel Gabriel, the Word God was conceived in her by the power of God.

The Syriac tradition holds Mary in such high esteem because she, as the human mother of Jesus Christ, she is physically and figuratively the closest person to God. All Christians seek proximity to God, because in love of Him we seek to be near Him. No one is closer than the immaculate, holy Mother of God. St. Ephrem and the other Syriac Fathers show this by comparing Mary's closeness to Jesus as opposed to His appearances in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament, those unworthy who dared to touch the Ark of the Covenant, which God gave to Israel as a sign of His love of them, died because they sought something they were not due (2 Sam 6:6-7). Yet Mary became the perfect Ark of the New Covenant at the Annunciation when she became the temple of God and bore Christ, the sacrifice of the New Covenant Who would die for us. Likewise, even the angels of fire, called seraphim, in the highest part of heaven that stand around the throne of God described by the Prophet Daniel cover their faces lest they look upon God's blazing face. The legions of fiery seraphim fear to be burned by the fire of God, yet Mary sat Him upon her lap and kissed His face. Mary held in her lap a wriggling child, the Ancient of Days Who governs the stars, as she suckled Him Who sends rain upon the earth.

These images the Fathers teach us illustrate many aspects of our belief about Christ's birth, but two obvious ones are the humility of God and the worthiness of Mary. Our omnipotent Lord and God, Who showed His absolute might in ages past, now takes the form of a meek and small child at the Annunciation to be near humanity. Why should the King of All trade His throne in heaven for the womb of the Virgin? Because He loves creation He comes to save, and to raise up our fallen nature He has lowered Himself. In raising up our nature, He has sanctified and designated the Holy Virgin Mary as His temple. Mary lived and served in the Temple of Jerusalem as a virgin since her childhood, always close to holy things and living a righteous life. Set apart from birth, she was a holy woman set apart for a holy purpose, as this prayer emphasizes:

O Holy Virgin, You holily received the holy Annunciation from the holy angel and holily carried in Your holy womb the Lord of Holies and Hallower of Holy Things. In the holiness of your holy conception you hallowed children and babes. Therefore, hallow us, O Holy Virgin, by the holiness of your holy prayers so that we may holily glorify Your holy Hallower, Whom you holily conceived and holily carried in the holy Holy of Holies. May we hallow Him with His Father, and living and Holy Spirit, now and at all times forever. Amen. (Prayer from Syriac Maronite Vespers for Annunciation)

The prayer mentions the word 'holy' a lot. The degree to the holiness of Mary is ineffable because she became the human vessel of Christ, from whom He took a body. In her great proximity to God, she provides us access ourselves. The Holy Virgin still stands closer to His throne than the ranks of seraphim and remains the greatest intercessor of the Church. She provides us both an example to aspire for closeness to God's holiness, and a means to do so through her. Let us glorify God Who has become man in His humility, and given us this great assistance on Earth. May her prayers be a rampart to us.

Bulletin Sponsors



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